

4/13

Express Mail Label No. EL056833212US
Date of Deposit: October 4, 1999
ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. C0441/7942

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Varghese, et al.
Serial No: Not yet assigned
Filed: Herewith
For: VIRTUAL LANS

Examiner: Not yet assigned
Art Unit: Not yet assigned

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

- NE At Page 6, please remove the text beginning on line 28 and ending on page 7, line 28, and insert it as a new paragraph at page 7, after line 29.
- NE At Page 38, after line 3 and before line 4, insert pages 1-27 of the Appendices submitted herewith.

In the Claims:

Please add the following claims:

- 5000 B 1
--21. A method of operating a network bridge having a first plurality of ports through which network communications pass to and from the bridge, the method comprising:
assigning a group identifier to each port of the plurality of ports, wherein all ports with a same assigned group identifier are in a same group;
receiving a communication on a first port of the bridge; and

B